

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MADRID 03227 261615Z

43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 121029

O 261520Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5476

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 3227

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SP

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH FRAGA IRIBARNE

1. A MEETING ATWOOD AND I HAD WITH MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR MANUEL FRAGA IRIBARNE ON SATURDAY MORNING (APRIL 24) REFLECTED SOME OF THE CONFUSION OVER THE DIRECTION THE PRIME MINISTER WILL TAKE IN HIS APRIL 28 TELEVISION ADDRESS.

2. AFTER A BRIEF EXCHANGE OF PLEASANTRIES, FRAGA RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM THE KING AND SPOKE TO HIM IN OUR PRESENCE. HE SAID THAT HE HAD NOT SEEN THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH BUT HAD BEEN TOLD OF THE MAJOR POINTS. (HE SEEMED TO BE RESPONDING TO A KING WHO WAS ALSO VERY MUCH IN THE DARK.) FRAGA TOLD THE KING HE THOUGHT THE SPEECH HAD BEEN VIDEOTAPED APRIL 23 AND THAT HE WAS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT IT. (ANOTHER SOURCE SUGGESTED THE VIDEOTAPING MIGHT TAKE PLACE TODAY.)

3. LATER REFERRING TO THE UPCOMING SPEECH, FRAGA SAID WITH SOME FORCE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO MAJOR CHANGE IN THE GOVT'S PROGRAM WITH THE SINGLE EXCEPTION THAT PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS WOULD COME BEFORE THE MUNICIPAL. HE SAID THAT THE REFERENDUM WOULD NOT BE MOVED UP TO LATE JUNE (MANY OTHERS ARE SAYING IT WILL BE MOVED UP) AND STRESSED THAT THE ELECTORAL CENSUS WOULD NOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER.

4. ASKED WHETHER THIS WAS THE ONLY REASON FOR DELAY AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MADRID 03227 261615Z

QHETHER THE CORTES APPROVAL OF THE LAWS OF POLITICAL

ASSOCIATIONS, MEETINGS AND THE REFORM OF THE PENAL CODE WILL TAKE LONGER THAN EXPECTED, HE REPLIED NEGATIVELY TO THAT AND SAID HE WAS SURE THAT THE CORTES WOULD MOVE QUICKLY TO MAKE THE CHANGES.

5. HE FELT THE SPEECH WOULD BE SOMEWHAT "DISILLUSIONING" AND SAID THAT WE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT ARIAS SIMPLY CANNOT CHANGE HIS METHODS AT HIS AGE. "BESIDES", HE SAID, "THE GOVT IS MOVING AHEAD AS IT SAID IT WOULD. THAT IS ALL THAT IS IMPORTANT." I POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS ALL WELL AND GOOD TO SAY THIS, BUT A LOT OF EXPECTATIONS HAD BEEN CREATED BY ARIAS' SPEECH, AND THIS WAS ALSO A REALITY THE GOS HAD TO KEEP IN MIND.

6. FRAGA EXPRESSED SOME IMPATIENCE WITH THE PRESS AND OPPOSITION AND SAID THAT THE GOVT COULD NOT MAKE THEM HAPPY ANYWAY AND "WE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT THEY DO NOT REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF THE SPANISH PEOPLE." HE SAID THAT ARIAS MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS OF THE CENTER RIGHT AND THE RIGHT AND THAT THESE VIEWS ARE NOT HEARD IN THE PRESS.

7. ASKED BY ATWOOD IF HE MIGHT DESCRIBE THE SPEECH AS "DEFENSIVE", FRAGA RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY AND ADDED, "WE MUST SHOW THAT WHAT WE HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF IS NOT TRUE." TO ILLUSTRATE THIS, HE SAID THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MIXED COMMISSION WILL BE ANNOUNCED EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE STILL SOME OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS.

8. ATWOOD SAID THERE WAS SUPPORT FOR THE TREATY IN THE SENATE BUT THAT LOSS OF INITIATIVE ON THE PART OF THE GOVT MIGHT CAUSE DELAY IN THE SENATE'S CONFIRMATION. FRAGA REACTED QUICKLY SAYING, "THE TREATY IS MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU THAN TO US. IF YOU DON'T WANT IT FINE, THAT IS YOUR BUSINESS. BUT IF IT IS DELAYED, THE SUPPORT IT NOW HAS WITHIN THE GOVT WILL ERODE."
STABLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, SPEECHES, TELEVISION BROADCASTING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MADRID03227
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760158-0021
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760423/aaaaasuu.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVERSATION WITH FRAGA IRIBARNE
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SP, (AREILZA Y MARTINEZ-RODAS, JOSE M), (IRIBARNE, FRAGA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006